

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 143

By Cooper

A RESOLUTION to request the Tennessee Department of Transportation to proceed with the initiation of a pilot performance-based maintenance contract project in 2005.

WHEREAS, the State of Tennessee, like many states throughout the country today, is facing tough challenges with transportation infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, vehicle miles traveled on our roadways continue to increase at a time when budgetary constraints are making it more and more difficult to keep up with the overwhelming needs of our traveling public; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of Tennessee and the Tennessee Department of Transportation are attempting to meet these challenges and, during these challenging times, it is imperative that all avenues for innovation and improvements be explored to the fullest extent; and

WHEREAS, the Senate Transportation Committee held a hearing in 2004 to hear testimony on best practices in other states and learned that at least three other states are piloting programs in their states to bring about more of an asset management approach to maintaining their transportation assets; and

WHEREAS, in particular, the State of Florida's Department of Transportation has embarked upon an asset management outsourcing program for maintenance that is generating proven cost savings of 17%, while the level of service has been improved or maintained; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Department of Transportation is currently having difficulty in hiring and keeping employees in some areas of the state, and therefore, some of our roads and bridges are not receiving the needed preservation and maintenance; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly of the State of Tennessee is committed to looking at all new and innovative means possible to save tax dollars, while at the same time providing a high level of service to the citizens of our State; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Transportation has during the past year reviewed the feasibility of using the asset management concept in Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby request the Department of Transportation to proceed with the initiation of a pilot performance-based maintenance contract project in 2005 in the location it deems most feasible for the benefit of the citizens of the State of Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an enrolled copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Commissioner of Transportation.